

Message Text

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ORIGIN TRSE-00

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APPROVED BY OES/APT/BMP:CBASTIANI
TREAS/IDN/RPELIKAN
TREAS/I/CFBERGSTEN
COMM/JBARUCH (INFO)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, IS

SUBJECT: BIRD FOUNDATION

REF: A. TEL AVIV 9585
B. STATE 187758

1. SUMMARY. TREASURY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGSTEN MET JULY TWENTY EIGHT WITH ISRAELI EMBASSY ECONOMIC MINISTER DINSTEIN AND STAFF PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS BIRD FOUNDATION. ISRAELIS WISHED TO LEARN ASS. SEC. BERGSTEN'S VIEWS ON BIRDF AND ALSO TO REQUEST AN INFORMAL MEETING OF AMERICAN AND ISRAELI GOVERNORS BY MID-AUGUST TO FIND JOINT SOLUTION TO BIRDF MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS. ASS. SEC. BERGSTEN AGREED TO CONFER WITH HIS COLLEAGUES REGARDING PROPOSED INFORMAL MEETING. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TERMINATION OF BLACKMAN CAN BE AVOIDED, DUE TO DISRUPTIVE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON BIRDF.
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ASS. SEC. BERGSTEN RECOMMENDED FURTHER DUTCH UNCLE TALKS WITH BOTH MEN. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REPORT (PAR. FOUR OF REF B) BE TELEGRAPHED BY AUGUST TENTH OR ELEVENTH TO PERMIT POSSIBLE MEETING WITH ISRAELI GOVERNORS FOLLOWING WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. ECONOMIC MINISTER DINSTEIN DESCRIBED AS REGRETTABLE

THE BROADCAST REPORTED REF A. HE SAID THAT KEY PROBLEM FOR BIRDF APPEARED TO BE QUOTE NEGATIVE BODY CHEMISTRY UNQUOTE BETWEEN LAVIE AND BLACKMAN. DINSTEIN NOTED THAT HE HAD NEVER MET BLACKMAN, AND THAT HE WAS NOT RPT NOT TRYING TO ASSESS BLAME FOR THE IMPASSE BETWEEN THE TWO MEN. NEVERTHELESS, DINSTEIN HOPED THAT ISRAELI GOVERNORS COULD HAVE INFORMAL MEETING WITH THEIR AMERICAN COUNTER-PARTS IN WASHINGTON BY MID-AUGUST. MID-AUGUST MEETING WOULD PERMIT DECISION ON BLACKMAN'S FUTURE PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF CONTRACT PROBATIONARY PERIOD AT END OF MONTH. DINSTEIN ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING BLACKMAN'S PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

3. ASS. SEC. BERGSTEN SAID U.S.G. IS QUOTE VERY CONCERNED UNQUOTE ABOUT BIRDF PROBLEMS. HE AGREED THAT INFORMAL GOVERNORS MEETING IN MID-AUGUST APPEARED NECESSARY, AND PROMISED TO CHECK WITH HIS U.S. COUNTERPARTS ON THIS POSSIBILITY. ASS. SEC. BERGSTEN EXPLAINED AS HIS QUOTE PERSONAL VIEW UNQUOTE THE HOPE THAT A WAY CAN BE FOUND TO AVOID TERMINATING BLACKMAN, AS SUCH A STEP WILL BE VERY DISRUPTIVE TO BIRDF.

4. ASS. SEC. BERGSTEN SAID THAT WHILE BLACKMAN'S PERSONAL RELATIONS ARE CLEARLY NOT GOOD, HIS OVERALL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE BIRDF IS QUOTE NOT BAD UNQUOTE. HE WASN'T YET CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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DISMISSING BLACKMAN. EXTENDING BLACKMAN'S PROBATIONARY PERIOD IS NOT PRACTICAL, AS THIS WOULD REQUIRE OPENING UP THE WHOLE CONTRACT ISSUE.

5. ASS. SEC. BERGSTEN RECOMMENDED ANOTHER SERIES OF DUTCH UNCLE TALKS WITH BLACKMAN BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNORS AND WITH LAVIE BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNORS.

6. BLACKMAN WILL PRESUMABLY RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR INFORMAL GOVERNORS MEETING, BUT OBVIOUSLY WILL HAVE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF PROCEEDINGS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: ASS. SEC. BERGSTEN PROMISED ISRAELIS TO SEEK EMBASSY REPORT (PAR. FOUR OF REF. B) BY AUGUST TENTH OR ELEVENTH TO PERMIT GOVERNORS TO MEET IN MID-AUGUST. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO TELEGRAPH COMPLETED REPORT BY AUGUST TENTH IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

8. MEMCON ON OTHER ISSUES BEING POUCHED. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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